

GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE # 22

TITLE: Radio Console Operation

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 9, 2005

UPDATE: February 2019

INTENT: Describe how to use the radio console at Northern Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center (GPC) and familiarize personnel with the radio console set up and usage.

PROCEDURE:

1. Console Set-up

1.1. The initial attack floor is broken out by geographical and functional areas into eight consoles: Northern Hills, Central Hills, Southern Hills, Nebraska NF, Intel, Floor Ops, Aircraft and Aircraft Support.

1.2. Each console with a radio handles traffic for that zone or function and has a tab with all frequencies that must be monitored. Tabs are set up the same as the consoles with the addition of a Mutual Aid tab. Frequencies are represented as icons on the computer screen.

2. Frequencies to monitor by console (Floor Ops, Aircraft Support & Intel, DO NOT have radio consoles.)

| Northern Hills | Central Hills | Southern Hills |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| NORTH ZONE | CENTRAL ZONE | SOUTH ZONE |
| FS NET WARREN | FS NET SETH | FS NET BEAR |
| BHFIRE 1 | BHFIRE 2 | BHFIRE 3 |
| | | |
| | | |
| Aviation | Nebraska | |
| NAT FF (all) | CHADRON | Bold notates a digital frequency Black notates an analog frequency |
| AIR GUARD (all) | WALL | |
| BHAIR | FALL RIVER | |
| FS NET (all) | BESSEY | |
| | FT PIERRE | |

3. Transmit and Receive

3.1. Transmission can be done three ways: By depressing and holding the left mouse button while pointing to an icon, by pressing the lightning bolt on the mike you will be heard on the "lit up" MSEL or by depressing and holding the right foot pedal when an icon is highlighted or selected. A successful transmit will show a red lightning bolt. Note: left foot pedal is in operable. (See selecting a frequency below)

3.2. Receiving radio traffic is automatic as long as volumes are audible (See volume adjustment below). Several speakers are on the console and labeled; radio traffic is heard on the corresponding speaker.

4. Special features and idiosyncrasies

4.1. Volume can be adjusted two ways.

- a. The preferred method is to use your mouse to slide the volume level from zero to seven on the screen. If possible volumes should be kept @ 5 or 6.
- b. The more obvious method is to turn the knobs on the speakers themselves, however this adjustment is not recommended.

4.2. Multi-select - Msel

- a. Use the multi-select function to talk to multiple frequencies at one time. This function is most commonly used for sending tone #2 for new incidents, reading weather statements, In and out of service for GPC, and multi-agency fires.
- b. Initiate multi-select by using the left mouse button to click on the three rectangles under Msel 1, Msel 2, or Msel 3. Upon doing this icons in the multi-select become highlighted. Next to transmit on the multiple frequencies, depress and hold the left mouse button while pointing to the three-rectangle box or depress and hold the right foot pedal.
- c. Msel 1 is to transmit on all monitored frequencies. Msel 2 is to transmit on each zone's monitored frequencies.

4.3. Selecting a frequency

- a. Placing an icon in a selected status does several things: changes location where radio traffic is heard on the selected speaker, a selected frequency changes from black to white, allows foot pedal method for transmission, turns volume instantly to seven and highlights the icon on the screen.
- b. Selecting a frequency is done by clicking the left mouse button on the portion of an icon.

4.4. Analog Frequencies

- a. Analog frequencies require a tower to be chosen to transmit. First, click the left mouse button on the down arrow, opening the icon. Next, click on the left mouse button on the second down arrow, then select a tower.
- b. Analog frequencies do not delineate which tower was used on the console, but field units should specify.

4.5. North Zone

The Northern Hills folder has two icons, NORTH ZONE and NZ SUNDANCE, which are the same frequencies and have the same tower choices. Under normal circumstances make the NORTH ZONE icon audible and the NZ SUNDANCE icon inaudible; this still allows GPC to hear all field traffic. If both icons are audible a reverberation will be heard on every incoming call.

4.6. South Zone

The Southern Hills folder has three icons, SOUTH ZONE PRIMARY, SOUTH ZONE CUSTER and SZ NEWCASTLE. The same frequencies and tower choices are found under each icon. Normally making the SOUTH ZONE PRIMARY icon audible and the SZ NEWCASTLE and SOUTH ZONE CUSTER inaudible allows GPC to receiving incoming traffic. If all icons are audible a reverberation will be heard on every incoming call.

4.7. Aircraft

The Aircraft folder contains numerous double frequencies: FS NET NAT FF, and AIR GUARD. Delineated on the icon is the tower choice. It is recommended to listen to all icons at a level of one and turn up only the icon the aircraft is currently using. Again listening to all icons with the same frequency will cause a reverberation nearly making traffic inaudible.

5. Digital Frequencies

Transmission on digital frequencies can give a busy signal during peak usage. Try to transmit repeatedly until successful, will hear a "blip blip" and the lightning bolt will go away when clear.

6. Reporting problems or outages

6.1. Numbers for contacting individuals are in the tarifold.

6.2. Black Hills National Forest Communications Specialist.

6.3. State Communications Specialist. GPC is site AC2 when calling the State Help Desk.